



## **Deer Tracks**

### **Deerbrook Home Owners Association Newsletter**

**December, 2009**

**The 2009 Luminary lighting & dues collection:** Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup> was the date chosen for the annual DHOA Luminary Lighting. Roger Hagen & BJ Tracy will be handing out luminary supplies, bags, candles and sand for the bags on Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup> from 1 – 5pm at 4015 Windhurst Ct. Dues for 2010 can also be paid at this time. Dues are \$60 and we ask for a \$5 donation to help cover luminary supplies. Dues can also be dropped off anytime at 4015 Windhurst Ct. in the mailbox if you cannot make the pickup.

**DHOA Member Directories 2010:** They are here!! The new DHOA Member Directories are going to be available for pick up at the Luminary pick. You can pick up your luminaries, pay your dues and get your new Member directory all in one stop Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup> from 1 – 5pm at 4015 Windhurst Ct.

**The important County tax information below is from the Gwinnett County website**

<http://www.gwinnettcountry.com/>

**Commissioners approve millage rate increase:** The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners adopted the 2009 millage rate and approved a resolution to levy taxes during a special called meeting on December 1, 2009. The new millage rate of 13.25 mills is an

increase of 2.28 mills over the 2008 property tax rate. Three funds are affected by the increase: the General Fund (+2.06 mills), the Recreation Fund (+0.21 mills), and the General Obligation Bond fund (+0.01 mills). The property tax increase will allow County government to restore some key services that were cut earlier this year, stabilizing specific services such as police, fire, sheriff, courts, libraries, parks and transportation (mowing rights of way) and keeping the correctional facility open.

**When will the reconciled tax bill be sent and when will payment be due?** Property owners were billed in August 2009 for 2009 property taxes based on a temporary millage rate of 10.97 (equal to the 2008 millage rate). The temporary and final 2009 millage rates will be reconciled and a second round of 2009 tax bills for the additional amount will be mailed to property owners sometime during the first half of 2010. Payment will be due in one installment 60 days from the billing date. It should be noted that the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners will adopt a 2010 millage rate that will result in a separate 2010 property tax billing later in the year.

**What does this mean for property owners?** The majority of homeowners - those whose homes are valued at \$200,000 or less - will see an increase of less than \$14 per month. The increase for 50 percent of all business owners - those with commercial property values of less than \$500,000 - will be \$38 a month or less.

**What will the millage increase fund?**  
The following items will be funded:

- Elected and constitutional officials will be restored to their March 3, 2009, budgeted levels, which includes:
  - Process improvements
  - 287g program
- Fire and Emergency Services
  - Station 18 relocation
  - Station 29 to open
  - Station 30 to open
- Police
  - 58 uniform patrol package added
  - Quality of Life Unit reestablished
  - Some vehicle replacements
  - Radio system maintenance
- Libraries
  - All 14 existing branches will remain open with equal hours of service
  - 15th library, Hamilton Mill Branch, will open at same service level as the other branches
  - Postpone regional library plan
- Corrections
  - Comprehensive Correctional Facility to remain open at March 3, 2009 operational levels
- Transportation
  - Restore frequency of rights-of-way mowing
- Subsidies
  - Restore subsidies with the exception of the Latin American Association
  - Association of Retarded Citizens

- Barrier Free Gwinnett
- Board of Health
- Children's Shelter
- Council for Seniors
- DFACS
- GRN Community Service Board
- Gwinnett Hospital System
- Health and Human Services Coalition
- Plan to phase out subsidies over several years, allowing the organizations to adapt

- Deficits
  - Eliminate existing deficit for 2010
  - Response to projected digest decline relating to commercial property values
- Parks
  - Reinstates recreation programs
  - Returns park maintenance
  - Opens recreation facilities as scheduled

**What will not be funded by this increase?** The approved increase will not restore cuts made within the County's internal support functions and also does not fund the Unified Plan, which was designed to better manage growth, public safety, quality of life, and economic development over the next several decades:

- Back office departments
- Board of Commissioners goals and initiatives
- Compensation plans (employee raises)
- Planned service enhancements
- 2030 Unified Plan

**How does this affect the work of Engage Gwinnett?** The Engage Gwinnett Citizens Committee for the Future of Gwinnett will continue to study service levels and funding options in order to make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners in the first quarter of 2010.

**City of Lilburn Happenings:** The City of Lilburn recently hired Sheila McGaughey as Finance Director. She brings years of government experience, including 25 years with Gwinnett County where she retired earlier this year. While with Gwinnett County, Sheila served in both the Gwinnett County Tax Commissioner's office and the Financial Services Department. She most recently held the position of Revenue Analyst where she worked with the County Economist to track trends and forecast revenues. She also coordinated the tax digest process with the cities in Gwinnett. Sheila is a native of Gwinnett County and she looks forward to continuing to serve her community.

**City Council Meeting:** Monday December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm.  
Location: Auditorium in City Hall at 76 Main Street.

**Hillcrest Road Reopened** - Work to repair flood-related damage to Hillcrest Road (near the Lilburn branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library) has been completed and the road has been reopened.

**Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis**  
Saturday, December 12, 2009 at 9:00 AM  
What: Jingle Bell Run/Walk  
When: Saturday, December 12 at 9 AM  
Where: Lilburn City Park  
Why: To help those with arthritis  
How to sign up:  
Visit [www.jbrgwinnett.kintera.org/2009](http://www.jbrgwinnett.kintera.org/2009)

Find out more about The City of Lilburn at <http://www.cityoflilburn.com/>

**Gwinnett County Happenings:**  
**Board of Commissioners Public Hearing:** Tuesday December 15<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm at the GJAC Auditorium 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville GA 30045

**“G” Scale Railroad on Display for Holidays:** December 1 through December 31. All aboard! Back by popular demand for the holidays, The Vines Garden Railroad Club, in partnership with Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation, presents a two-track “G” scale display at George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center. Bring the family and kids to see this unique miniature railroad. The exhibit will be on display from December 1 through December 31; Mondays through Thursdays 9:00am to 8:00pm, Fridays 9:00am to 4:00pm, and Saturdays 10:00am to 6:00pm (closed December 24 and 25). George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center is located at 55 Buford Highway in Suwanee. Call 770.831.4173 for more information or visit [www.gwinnettparks.com](http://www.gwinnettparks.com)

**Fire & Emergency Services – Firefighter Recruit Graduation:**  
GJAC Auditorium 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville GA 30045

Find out more about Gwinnett County at <http://www.gwinnettcounty.com>

**Crime Watch:** Please keep the Board posted about any criminal activity after you call the police. With your permission, your story can be shared to help others stay up with what's happening. At Deerbrook we are fortunate to live in a very low crime neighborhood. Report information for Crime Watch or the Newsletter to [mail@deerbrookhoa.org](mailto:mail@deerbrookhoa.org)

**Newsletter Announcements:** If you have an announcement, event, or feedback that you want in Deer Tracks, call DHOA Secretary Tom Heinze 770-923-2823.

**Deerbrook Home Owners Association  
Officer List  
May 2009 through May 2010**

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**DHOA Web site**

<http://www.deerbrookhoa.org>  
For copies of DHOA bylaws, covenants,  
Gwinnett County info and more

**DHOA general email**

[mail@deerbrookhoa.org](mailto:mail@deerbrookhoa.org)  
Or you can contact any officer directly as  
listed above